

Crime Incidence and Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro

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Abstract: This study examined the responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations and crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. The research study used a descriptive correlational research design to examine the profiles, crime rates, and joint operation response of police officers and barangay officials who participated in the study, which involved 123 PNP personnel and barangay tanods as respondents. Results revealed that crime incidence is generally moderate in terms of types of offenses and crime hotspots, with higher frequencies observed for illegal gambling, traffic violations, minor breaches, and poorly monitored areas. Reported crime rates and crime clearance rates were perceived as high, indicating consistent reporting, prompt action, and effective incident resolution. The joint operations were found to be highly responsive in terms of response time, resource allocation, communication efficiency, community perception, joint patrol effectiveness, and incident resolution. Occupation and assignment length were significant correlates of perceived responsiveness, whereas age, educational attainment, and involvement in crime prevention initiatives were not. Furthermore, higher crime incidence was positively associated with more effective and timely responses from the police-barangay units. The research shows that joint operations succeed in building community trust and delivering quick responses, yet criminal activity requires authorities to establish better preventive strategies, including data on citizen demographics and professional backgrounds that affect response times.

Keywords: Crime incidence, Police-barangay joint operations, Operational responsiveness, Crime clearance, Community policing, Joint patrol effectiveness.

1. Introduction

Community policing has also been recognized as an effective strategy in the prevention of crime and in ensuring public safety. Recent international experiences have also highlighted the significance of police-community partnerships in enhancing police responsiveness, visibility, and community trust. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) highlighted co-production and engagement between the police and communities as essential components of effective policing (OSCE, 2022).

In the United Kingdom, the Neighborhood Policing Guarantee has reinforced the importance of visible and known police officers in rebuilding community confidence (Home Office, 2022; UK Government, 2025). Research in Europe and the United States of America has also established that targeted policing, procedural justice training, and fairness-based policing can combat crime and improve police-community relationships (Bland et al., 2021; Weisburd et al., 2022). In Asia, Japan's 'Kōban System' continues to prove the success of building trust and quick response policing in communities (Héra, 2024), while in the region, the initiatives of the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights promote community policing in fighting crime and addressing community concerns (AICHR, 2023). All of these examples affirm that community policing is still essential in fighting crime.

In the Philippines, crime prevention is a joint responsibility of law enforcement agencies and local government units. One key way to enhance local peace and order is through police-barangay joint operations, intended to improve police responsiveness, coordination, and community participation (Doe, 2020). Past research has shown that police-barangay joint operations are key in enhancing public trust and police law enforcement performance (Smith & Johnson, 2019). Police visibility and response have also been shown to be key in crime prevention, particularly in areas with socioeconomic challenges. Past research has shown that police visibility is key in enhancing public safety and reducing crime rates (Brown, 2020; Taylor et al., 2010). In addition, national initiatives such as intensified police patrol operations and police-community programs indicate the importance of police-barangay joint operations in enhancing peace and order in local communities (Precillas & Pallega, 2024).

Local research has been conducted to assess the implementation of community-oriented policing strategies in the Philippines. Results showed that police operations, including community policing and crime prevention, are well implemented, although some areas still need improvement

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(Micubo, 2025). Innovations, such as mobile reporting apps, are also implemented to enhance communication between the community and the police (Ignaco, 2019). Assessments of the implementation of peace and order programs emphasize the importance of community participation in resolving the problems related to crimes (Breva Jr., 2020). Local research has also shown that the community's positive perceptions of the collaboration between the police and the Barangay are associated with reduced crime in the community (Tondo et al., 2020). However, some research has shown that a lack of coordination between the police and the Barangay is associated with gaps in crime prevention (Vicente, 2020; De Lana et al., 2025).

Despite these findings, significant gaps remain that need to be addressed. Most of the studies conducted in the Philippines were conducted in urban settings, with little empirical evidence on the effectiveness of joint operations conducted by the police and barangay in rural and semi-urban settings. Furthermore, although there is much discussion of police visibility, there is little focus on other aspects of responsiveness, such as response time, resource allocation, communication efficiency, and joint patrol effectiveness. There is also little focus on the perspectives of citizens and barangay officials, which is significant for determining the impact of perceived responsiveness on crime-prevention outcomes. This is significant in addressing the gaps in strengthening preventive and proactive policing strategies, which is more economical and effective than reactive policing (Napiloy, 2015).

For instance, in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, police-barangay joint operations have become an essential strategy in dealing with crime in both urbanizing and rural areas. For Barangay Buenavista, which is an urbanizing area, and Barangay Sta. Lucia, which is a rural barangay, there are challenges in dealing with crime prevention in their respective areas. According to personnel of the Sablayan Municipal Police Station, various efforts, such as Implan Spectrum, Pulis sa Lansangan, Pulis sa Barangay, patrolling, checkpoints, and curfew, are being implemented to improve safety in the community. The crime rate in Barangay Buenavista, however, slightly increased from 43 in 2024 to 48 in 2025, whereas Barangay Sta. Lucia is still facing challenges due to the inaccessibility of police presence.

Under the aforementioned conditions, this study aimed to look into the relationship between police-barangay joint operations and crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. The results of this study would serve as evidence-based information for law enforcers, barangay authorities, and planners to improve crime prevention strategies and enhance community-based policing in both rural and urban settings.

2. Materials and Method

A. Research Design

This study adopted a quantitative approach, using a descriptive correlational research design to assess the responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations and their

relationship with crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. Descriptive correlational research, as defined by Creswell (2014), is “a method in which the researcher attempts to describe and understand existing conditions and at the same time determines the degree of association that exists between variables.” This research approach is applicable to this study because it enabled the measurement of the effectiveness of police-barangay joint operations and the assessment of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia, as well as for establishing whether there is a significant relationship between police-barangay collaboration and crime incidence. Moreover, it allowed for establishing whether there is a significant difference in responsiveness as compared to other respondent profiles.

B. Locale of the Study

The study area was in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia, which is both located in the Municipality of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. Barangay Buenavista is an urban barangay, meaning it is part of the town proper. It is considered an urban barangay due to population concentration and the availability of essential facilities. On the other hand, Barangay Sta. Lucia is a rural barangay with a coastal and agricultural setting. The selection of these two barangays was to assess the differences in joint operations of the police with the barangay in both urban and rural settings. The respondents of the study were local law enforcement officers who were directly involved in crime prevention in the area.

C. Unit of Analysis and Sampling

The unit of analysis was individual respondents who were directly involved in the implementation of police-barangay joint operations, including PNP personnel assigned to Sablayan MPS, Barangay Tanods, and barangay staff from both barangays.

The researcher used a stratified proportional random sampling design to ensure fair representation of all the respondents' groups. From a total population of 178 individuals, a sample size of 123 respondents was determined using Slovin's formula with a 5% margin of error. The researcher sampled 48 PNP personnel, 35 Barangay Tanods from Buenavista, and 15 Barangay Tanods from Sta. Lucia, 15 barangay staff from Buenavista, and 10 barangay staff from Sta. Lucia.

The stratified proportional random sampling design was used to ensure fair representation of all respondent groups, allowing a balanced analysis of both urban and rural areas.

D. Research Instrument

Data were collected through a structured survey questionnaire with Likert scales ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). It was developed to measure crime incidence and the responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations. More specifically, it measured response time, resource allocation, communication efficiency, community perception of responsiveness, effectiveness of joint patrols, and response resolution rate.

In ensuring content validity, experts in law enforcement, barangay governance, and community leadership were consulted. A pilot test was also done to assess its clarity and appropriateness. Reliability analysis through Cronbach’s Alpha yielded satisfactory scores, with an overall .881 for crime incidence and .965 for responsiveness of joint police-barangay operations. These are considered excellent scores, implying that it is reliable and appropriate in measuring the variables under investigation.

E. Data Gathering Procedure

The data collection activity adhered to a scientific and ethical approach. The researcher first sought permission from the Graduate School of Occidental Mindoro State College. The researcher then sought permission from the Sablayan Municipal Police Station and barangay officials from Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia.

The respondents were selected through stratified proportional random sampling. The survey questionnaires were administered personally to the respondents. The researcher explained the purpose and significance of the study, and respondents were given informed consent. The respondents were also provided proper guidance in completing the survey instrument. The data collection activity was conducted within a two-week period. Close coordination with police authorities and barangay officials facilitated efficient and effective data collection. The responses were then compiled and coded for further statistical analysis.

F. Data Analysis

The study utilized both descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. Frequency and percentage distribution were utilized to describe the profiles of the respondents. Mean and standard deviation were utilized to assess the incidence of crimes and the level of responsiveness of the police and the Barangay joint operations.

To assess the relationship between responsiveness and crime incidence, the Pearson correlation coefficient (*r*) was computed, along with the corresponding *p*-value, to test the statistical significance of the relationship. Additionally, inferential statistical analyses, such as independent *t*-tests and one-way ANOVA, were utilized to check the differences between the levels of responsiveness among the respondent groups.

G. Scope and Limitations

This study aimed to investigate the link between police-barangay joint operations and crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in the academic year 2025-2026. Responsiveness was particularly studied in the following areas: response time, resource allocation, communication efficiency, community perception, joint operations, and incident resolution rate.

Although this study was conducted in two barangays, it was limited in that it relied solely on self-reported data, which may be biased in some cases. It failed to consider other factors, such as socio-economic factors, which could affect the study.

H. Ethical Considerations

The study followed the ethical standards outlined in the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173). Consent was obtained from all participants, indicating that they were volunteers. Moreover, all participants were fully aware of the study's purpose. Confidentiality was also maintained by using coding systems rather than personal identifiers.

All data collected was stored safely. The study also ensured there was no harm or injury to participants. This is particularly significant, as crime and law enforcement involve sensitive aspects. Ethical clearance was sought from the appropriate authorities before data collection.

3. Results

A. Profile

Table 1
Profile of the respondents

Profile Variables	Frequency	Percent
Age		
Young Adult (18-25 years old)	5	4.07
Adult (26-44 years old)	67	54.47
Middle-Aged Adult (45-59 years old)	45	36.58
Old Adult (60 years old and above)	6	4.88
Occupation		
PNP personnel	48	39.02
Barangay tanod	49	39.84
Barangay staff	21	17.07
Barangay official	4	3.25
Others	1	0.81
Educational Attainment		
Graduate studies	5	4.07
College	62	50.41
Vocational	2	1.63
High school	35	28.46
Elementary	19	15.45
No formal education	0	0.00
Length of Assignment		
Less than 1 year	0	0.00
1–3 years	71	57.72
4–6 years	14	11.38
7–10 years	7	5.69
11–15 years	15	12.20
16–20 years	14	11.38
More than 20 years	2	1.63
Involvement in Crime Prevention Initiatives		
PNP	50	40.65
Barangay tanod	49	39.84
Youth watch	5	4.07
Neighborhood watch	6	4.88
Community patrol volunteer	5	4.07
Barangay council	6	4.88
Others	2	1.63
Total	123	100%

Most respondents are between 26 and 44 years old, comprising 54.47% of the total. Middle-aged respondents, aged 45 to 59, comprise 36.58%. The least number of respondents are young adults, aged 18 to 25, and older persons, aged 60 and above, comprising only 4.07% and 4.88%, respectively.

As to the occupational profile of the respondents, most are PNP personnel (39.02%) and Barangay tanods (39.84%), while a few are Barangay staff (17.07%), Barangay officials (3.25%), and those holding other positions (0.81%). Regarding the respondents' educational profile, most are college graduates

(50.41%), followed by high school graduates (28.46%) and elementary graduates (15.45%). A few of them have graduate studies and vocational education.

As for the respondents' length of assignment, most (57.72%) had been serving for 1 to 3 years. A few of them had been serving for 11 to 15 years (12.20%), 4 to 6 years (11.38%), 16 to 20 years (11.38%), 7 to 10 years (5.69%), and more than 20 years (1.63%). As to the profile of respondents as to participation in crime prevention, most of them are PNP (40.65%) and Barangay tanods (39.84%), while a few are Youth Watch (4.07%), Neighbourhood Watch (4.88%), Community Patrol Volunteer (4.07%), Barangay Council (4.07%).

B. Level of Crime Incidence Relative to Types of Crimes

The level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia is generally moderate, with a mean of 3.28 and a standard deviation of 1.232. As shown in Table 2, the criminal activities in the said theft and robbery incidents were noted to have a mean of 3.28 and a standard deviation of 1.232. Moreover, drug-related crimes, such as possession and peddling, were noted as recurring issues in the area, with a mean of 3.36, with a standard deviation of 1. Generally, the barangay exists, but only to a moderate extent. Specifically, there are reports of theft and robbery in the area, as well as the recurring issue of drug possession and peddling in the area. Moreover, there are reports of physical violence, such as in the neighborhood, as well as property damage and vandalism. The frequency of delinquency, such as gang activity, although to a moderate extent, is alarming. Moreover, there are issues of domestic violence, as well as sexual harassment.

However, some offences were seen at a higher level. Illegal gambling activities were seen at a mean of 3.51 (SD=1.270);

traffic-related violations and accidents were common at the barangays (mean=3.58, SD=1.306); and minor violations such as the breach of curfew and public disturbances were common in the barangays (mean=3.67, SD=1.198). In general terms, the overall figure of 3.30 (SD=1.034) indicates that respondents perceive crime incidence in the barangays as moderate.

C. Level of Crime Incidence Relative to Crime Hotspots

As shown in Table 3, based on respondents' perceptions, the level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia, in relation to other crime hotspots, is generally moderate. The locations of markets, transport terminals, and plazas are generally perceived as crime-prone areas (mean=3.24, SD=1.295), and dark, poorly monitored alleys are also commonly associated with crime (mean=3.31, SD=1.222). The lack of street lighting also makes areas more prone to crime (mean=3.37, SD=1.339), and crime is commonly reported in areas near commercial establishments such as sari-sari stores (mean=3.24, SD=1.248).

Crime incidence during nighttime is commonly reported in particular locations (mean=3.40, SD=1.233), and residential areas are also more prone to crime than business districts (mean=3.21, SD=1.338). Public terminals, waiting areas, and highly congested areas such as markets and plazas are commonly associated with petty crime incidence (mean=3.17-3.25, SD=1.310-1.334), and local reports or maps also show that crime incidence is commonly reported in these areas (mean=3.41, SD=1.305). Petty violations such as curfew violations and other forms of public disturbance are also commonly reported (mean = 3.35, SD = 1.318). The respondents generally perceived that the level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in relation to other crime hotspots is generally moderate, and some

Table 2
Level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia relative to types of crimes

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Theft and robbery incidents are frequently reported in the barangay.	3.28	1.232	Moderate
Drug-related crimes (e.g., possession, peddling) are a recurring issue.	3.36	1.181	Moderate
Cases of physical violence (e.g., fights, assaults, abuse) often occur.	3.23	1.186	Moderate
Property damage and vandalism are regularly experienced in the community.	2.93	1.319	Moderate
Illegal gambling activities are observed in the barangay.	3.51	1.270	High
Crimes involving youth (e.g., delinquency, gang activity) are increasing.	3.19	1.302	Moderate
Domestic violence or family-related crimes are reported in the community.	3.15	1.300	Moderate
Sexual harassment or abuse cases occur in the barangay.	3.12	1.377	Moderate
Traffic-related violations and accidents are frequent.	3.58	1.306	High
Minor violations (e.g., curfew violations, public disturbances) are commonly recorded.	3.67	1.198	High
Overall Result	3.30	1.034	Moderate

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 3
Level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia relative to crime hotspots

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Specific barangay locations (e.g., market, transport terminal, plaza) are widely recognized as crime hotspots.	3.24	1.295	Moderate
Dark or poorly monitored alleys are common locations of crimes.	3.31	1.222	Moderate
Inadequate street lighting increases the risk of crimes in specific areas.	3.37	1.339	Moderate
Crime incidents are concentrated around certain commercial establishments (e.g. Sari-sari stores).	3.24	1.248	Moderate
Nighttime crime incidents are concentrated in particular locations.	3.40	1.233	Moderate
Residential neighborhoods are more vulnerable to crime than business/commercial districts.	3.21	1.338	Moderate
Public terminals and waiting areas are hotspots for theft and petty crimes.	3.17	1.310	Moderate
High-traffic areas (markets, plazas) experience frequent petty crimes.	3.25	1.334	Moderate
Crime hotspot locations are identified and recorded in local reports or maps.	3.41	1.305	Moderate
Minor violations (e.g., curfew, public disturbance) are commonly recorded.	3.35	1.318	Moderate
Overall Result	3.30	1.140	Moderate

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 4
Level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia relative to reported crime rate

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Crimes in the barangay are consistently reported to the authorities.	3.59	1.180	High
The number of reported crime cases has decreased over recent years.	3.54	1.243	High
Citizens promptly report crimes when they occur.	3.60	1.092	High
Police and barangay officials provide feedback or updates on reported crimes.	3.85	1.084	High
Most crime incidents are reported through formal channels (e.g., blotter, written report).	3.77	1.165	High
Crimes are typically addressed soon after being reported.	3.78	1.127	High
Repeat offenses continue to appear in crime reports.	3.54	1.154	High
Community residents actively participate in reporting crimes.	3.71	1.092	High
Crime statistics are regularly compiled and shared with the community.	3.57	1.255	High
The accuracy and reliability of reported crime data have improved over time.	3.74	1.172	High
Overall Result	3.67	1.008	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 5
Level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia relative to crime clearance rate

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Most crime cases are successfully closed.	3.61	1.252	High
Authorities follow up on unsolved crimes.	3.80	1.214	High
Suspects are apprehended promptly.	3.79	1.196	High
Closed cases are documented and archived.	3.88	1.171	High
Victims are informed about resolutions.	4.00	1.116	High
Case backlogs are being reduced.	3.84	1.162	High
Barangay assists police in case resolutions.	3.86	1.133	High
The resolution rate has improved recently.	3.81	1.169	High
Most minor cases are resolved within the barangay.	3.47	1.416	High
Criminal cases rarely remain unsolved.	3.19	1.422	Moderate
Overall Result	3.73	1.041	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

areas are commonly reported as more prone to crime incidence (overall mean = 3.30, SD = 1.140).

D. Level of Crime Incidence Relative to Reported Crime Rate

Based on the perceptions of the respondents, as shown in Table 4, the level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia relative to the reported crime rates is generally high. Crimes reported in the Barangay are consistently reported to the authorities (mean=3.59, SD=1.180). Crimes are reported immediately upon occurrence (mean=3.60, SD=1.092). The number of reported crime cases has been declining in recent years (mean=3.54, SD=1.243). The authorities provide immediate feedback and updates regarding reported crimes (mean=3.85, SD=1.084). Most crimes are documented through formal means such as blotters and written reports (mean=3.77, SD=1.165).

Crimes are immediately acted upon when they are reported (mean=3.78, SD=1.127). However, crimes are still recurring in the reported crime list (mean=3.54, SD=1.154). Crimes are actively reported by community members (mean=3.71, SD=1.092). Crime statistics are regularly given to the community (mean=3.57, SD=1.255). The accuracy and reliability of the reported crimes have improved over the years (mean=3.74, SD=1.172). According to the respondents, the level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia relative to the reported crime rate is high, with the overall mean at 3.67 (SD=1.008).

E. Level of Crime Incidence Relative to Crime Clearance Rate

According to respondents directly involved in the joint police-barangay operations to address crime in the area, the crime incidence rate relative to the crime clearance rate in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia is perceived to

be high. The respondents' perceptions indicated that most crime cases were already closed and that law enforcement agencies were consistent in pursuing the resolution of pending cases. The suspects were already apprehended, and the closure of the crime cases was well documented and archived.

In addition, the victims were notified of the resolution of the crime cases and that efforts were underway to address the backlog. The barangay was also seen to be actively involved in resolving crime cases with the help of the police. The respondents' perceptions indicated that the resolution of crime cases was already improving over the years. The minor crime cases were already addressed at the barangay level. The respondents' perceptions indicated that criminal cases were already being addressed and that a few remained unresolved. The respondents' perceptions were moderate in this regard. The perceptions of the respondents showed that the crime clearance rate was already high in the area, with a mean of 3.73 and a standard deviation of 1.041.

F. Summary of the Level of Crime Incidence Relative to Crime Clearance Rate

Table 6
Summary of the level of crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia relative to crime clearance rate

Factors	Overall Mean	Interpretation
Types of crimes	3.30	Moderate
Crime hotspots	3.30	Moderate
Reported crime rate	3.67	High
Crime clearance rate	3.73	High
Grand Mean	3.73	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 6 presents a summary of the crime incidence levels in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in relation to the

crime clearance rate. The level of perceived incidence of crimes in terms of type of offense and the hotspot of crimes was rated as moderate, with a mean of 3.30. However, the level of reported crimes and the crime clearance rate were rated high, with means of 3.67 and 3.73, respectively. Generally, the grand mean of 3.73 indicates that the respondents perceived the incidence of crimes in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia as high, particularly in relation to the reported crimes and the clearance rate, but the frequency and hotspot of the crimes were rated moderate.

G. Level of Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations in Addressing the Crime Incidents in Terms of Response Time

Moreover, as indicated in Table 7, the level of responsiveness in dealing with crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia is generally high. The respondents indicated that police and barangay teams respond quickly to crime reports, with an average of 3.87, and that response times are even faster during the daytime, averaging 3.84. The emergency hotlines are also functional and effective (mean=4.00), and minor crimes are given equal weight (mean=4.01). The respondents also indicated that delays in response are not often encountered (mean=3.85), and response times have even improved in the past six months (mean=4.03). The joint patrols also arrived within 10-15 minutes of receiving reports (mean=3.92), and the presence of responders also calmed people’s panic (mean=4.00).

Moreover, victims are immediately assisted upon their arrival (mean=3.92), and even delayed assistance is properly acted upon by authorities (mean=3.82). Overall, the results show that the responsiveness of joint police and barangay

operations is high, with an overall mean of 3.93, indicating the effectiveness of their response to crime incidents.

H. Level of Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations in Addressing the Crime Incidents in Terms of Resource Allocation

As shown in Table 8, the level of responsiveness in dealing with crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia is perceived by the respondents to be at a high level in terms of resource allocation. This is based on the following observations of the respondents: police and barangay personnel are well-manned in terms of manpower (mean=3.74, SD=1.200); patrol vehicles are always available (mean=3.89, SD=1.095); communication devices such as radio and phone are well-distributed among police and barangay personnel (mean=3.77, SD=1.070); night patrols are well-equipped with lights and other protective gear (mean=3.85, SD=1.069); budget allocation between police and barangay is fair (mean=3.83, SD=1.092); mobile patrols are frequently done (mean=3.93, SD=1.095); security cameras are installed in key areas (mean=3.34, SD=1.247); joint police and barangay operations are always backed by logistical support (mean=3.66, SD=1.172); police and barangay personnel are always in uniform and have IDs during patrol (mean=3.78, SD=1.276).

Although some of the respondents recognized that the lack of resources could have a negative bearing on performance, this was still rated high with a mean of 3.71 and a standard deviation of 1.266. Overall, the findings revealed a high level of responsiveness in resource allocation, with a mean of 3.75 and a standard deviation of 0.985, indicating effective support for police-barangay collaborative efforts in managing crime incidents.

Table 7

Level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in addressing the crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in terms of response time

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Police-barangay teams respond quickly to crime reports.	3.87	1.336	High
The response time is faster during the day.	3.84	1.104	High
Emergency hotlines are active and reliable.	4.00	1.159	High
Response to minor crimes is equally prioritized.	4.01	1.149	High
Delays in response are rare.	3.85	1.255	High
Response time has improved in the last 6 months.	4.03	1.130	High
Joint patrols arrive within 10–15 minutes of a report.	3.92	1.128	High
Presence of responders helps reduce panic during incidents.	4.00	1.131	High
Victims are assisted promptly upon arrival.	3.92	1.198	High
Delayed responses are followed up by officials.	3.82	1.215	High
Overall Result	3.93	1.070	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 8

Level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in addressing the crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in terms of resource allocation

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Police and barangay officers have sufficient manpower.	3.74	1.200	High
Patrol vehicles are always available.	3.89	1.095	High
Communication tools (e.g., radios, phones) are well-distributed.	3.77	1.070	High
Night patrols are well-equipped with lights and protective gear.	3.85	1.069	High
Budget is allocated fairly between police and barangay units.	3.83	1.092	High
Mobile patrols are frequent and consistent.	3.93	1.095	High
Security cameras are present in key areas.	3.34	1.247	High
Joint operations are supported with necessary logistical resources.	3.66	1.172	High
Uniforms and IDs are properly worn during patrols.	3.78	1.276	High
Lack of resources affects performance negatively.	3.71	1.266	High
Overall Result	3.75	0.985	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 9

Level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in addressing the crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in terms of community efficiency

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Police and barangay officials coordinate well.	3.90	1.231	High
Incident details are properly relayed between teams.	3.93	1.168	High
Communication is clear during joint operations.	3.98	1.145	High
Feedback from citizens is considered by officers.	3.95	1.144	High
Community members can easily reach officials.	3.97	1.116	High
Updates on incidents are provided to the public.	3.93	1.114	High
Radio systems are always functional.	3.85	1.178	High
Barangay officials know who to contact in the police.	3.89	1.229	High
Language used by officials is understandable to the public.	3.89	1.220	High
Communication failures are immediately resolved.	3.90	1.217	High
Overall Result	3.92	1.012	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 10

Level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in addressing the crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in terms of community perception of responsiveness

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Residents express feeling safer during joint patrol activities.	3.96	1.183	High
Community members view police and barangay officers as approachable and respectful.	3.98	1.215	High
The public perceives joint operations to be timely and responsive to incidents.	3.98	1.131	High
Joint patrols are frequently visible in high-risk or populated areas.	4.00	1.138	High
The community shows trust in the effectiveness of police-barangay teams.	4.01	1.142	High
Residents believe crime has decreased due to the joint presence and patrols.	3.94	1.223	High
People feel confident reporting crimes or suspicious behavior.	4.02	1.105	High
Officers regularly demonstrate concern for the safety and welfare of the community.	3.95	1.165	High
Operations are responsive to the actual needs and concerns raised by residents.	3.94	1.210	High
Police and barangay staff consistently engage with the public through dialogue or outreach	4.05	1.172	High
Overall Result	3.98	1.102	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

I. Level of Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations in Addressing the Crime Incidents in Terms of Community Efficiency

The perceived level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in attending to crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia is high (Table 9). Coordination between the police and the barangay officials is rated positively (mean=3.90, SD=1.231). This includes the proper transmission of details of the incident (mean=3.93, SD=1.168). Communication is also good during the actual operation (mean=3.98, SD=1.145). Officers are also seen to consider feedback from the citizens (mean=3.95, SD=1.144

The accessibility of officials to members of the community was also emphasized (mean=3.97, SD=1.116), as well as receiving timely information on incidents (mean=3.93, SD=1.114). The radio system was functioning well (mean=3.85, SD=1.178), with the officials of the barangay knowing the appropriate contacts of the police (mean=3.89, SD=1.229). The language used by the officials was easily understandable (mean=3.89, SD=1.220), with any communication problems being resolved promptly (mean=3.90, SD=1.217). Overall, the joint operations were rated highly for community efficiency, with a mean of 3.92 (SD=1.012).

J. Level of Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations in Addressing the Crime Incidents in Terms of Community Perception of Responsiveness

As can be gleaned from Table 10, respondents who were directly involved in joint operations with the police in the community attested to a high level of responsiveness in terms

of community perception in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia, where people feel safer with joint operations in place (mean=3.96, SD=1.183) and that the police and barangay officials are approachable and respectful (mean=3.98, SD=1.215). Moreover, the community perceives that joint operations are timely and responsive to their needs (mean=3.98, SD=1.131), with joint police operations frequently patrolling areas deemed high-risk or densely populated (mean=4.00, SD=1.138). The community trusts the joint operations of the police and the barangay, which is a clear indication of their effectiveness (mean=4.01, SD=1.142), and residents believe that the joint presence has contributed to a decrease in crime (mean=3.94, SD=1.223).

The level of confidence in reporting crimes or suspicious activities is high among the people (mean=4.02, SD=1.105). Moreover, the police are consistently seen to show concern for the safety and well-being of the people (mean=3.95, SD=1.165). Operations are seen to be responsive to the actual needs and concerns of the people (mean=3.94, SD=1.210). Furthermore, the consistent involvement of the police and the barangay staff through dialogue is seen to be effective in building positive community relations (mean=4.05, SD=1.172). From the findings, there is a high perception of the community's response, as shown by the overall mean of 3.98 (SD=1.102).

K. Level of Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations in Addressing the Crime Incidents in Terms of Effectiveness of Joint Patrols

The effectiveness of joint patrols in addressing crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta was deemed high by respondents who were directly involved in police-barangay joint operations. Table 11 presents Lucia. The

Table 11

Level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in addressing the crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in terms of effectiveness of joint patrols

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Joint patrols are consistent and regular.	3.92	1.303	High
They have successfully prevented crime in area.	4.00	1.228	High
Patrols know the crime-prone areas well.	4.03	1.130	High
Their presence deters criminals.	4.03	1.145	High
Patrols are active during peak crime hours.	4.07	1.206	High
There are noticeable improvements since joint operations started.	3.96	1.141	High
Patrol routes cover most parts of the barangay.	4.02	1.094	High
Residents recognize patrol members.	4.01	1.120	High
They act quickly upon seeing suspicious behavior.	3.95	1.234	High
The patrol system is working effectively.	3.98	1.251	High
Overall Result	4.00	1.098	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 12

Level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in addressing the crime incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia in terms of incident resolution rate

Indicators	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Most incidents are resolved quickly.	3.93	1.262	High
Victims are updated on their case progress.	3.96	1.134	High
Suspects are apprehended and held accountable.	3.93	1.150	High
Barangay-police cooperation aids faster resolution.	4.00	1.201	High
Witnesses are protected and encouraged to speak.	4.05	1.193	High
Resolved cases are publicly reported.	3.91	1.159	High
Unresolved cases are followed up regularly.	3.89	1.186	High
Case records are well-documented.	3.93	1.175	High
Conflict mediation is used effectively.	3.89	1.213	High
Resolution efforts are consistent and efficient.	3.94	1.230	High
Overall Result	3.94	1.114	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

Table 13

Summary of the level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in addressing the crime incidents

Factors	Overall Mean	Interpretation
Response time	3.93	High
Resource allocation	3.75	High
Communication efficiency	3.92	High
Community perception of responsiveness	3.98	High
Effectiveness of joint patrols	4.00	High
Incident resolution rate	3.94	High
Grand Mean	3.92	High

Scale: 1.00-1.49 Very Low; 1.50-2.49 Low; 2.50-3.49 Moderate; 3.50-4.49 High; 4.50-5.00 Very High

patrols were characterized as successful in preventing crimes within their areas of responsibility (mean=4.00) and as regular and consistent (mean=3.92). Officers are aware of high-crime areas (mean=4.03), and their obvious presence discourages would-be criminals (mean=4.03). Respondents reported significant improvements since the start of joint operations (mean=3.96), and patrol activities are maintained during peak crime hours (mean=4.07). Patrol routes cover the majority of the barangay (mean=4.02), and patrol members are known to the locals (mean=4.01). The system as a whole is deemed effective (mean=3.98), and patrols react quickly to suspicious activity (mean=3.95). Overall, the joint patrols are perceived as highly effective, with an overall mean of 4.00, demonstrating their significant role in crime prevention and community safety.

L. Level of Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations in Addressing the Crime Incidents in Terms of Incident Resolution Rate

The effectiveness of joint police-barangay operations in handling criminal incidents in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. According to Table 12, Lucia was thought to have a high incident resolution rate. The majority of incidents

were reported to be promptly resolved (mean=3.93, SD=1.262), and victims received regular updates on the status of their cases (mean=3.96, SD=1.134). Strong collaboration between police and barangay staff allowed for quicker case resolution (mean=4.00, SD=1.201) and the prompt apprehension and accountability of suspects (mean=3.93, SD=1.150).

Resolved cases were made public (mean=3.91, SD=1.159), and witnesses were protected and encouraged to testify (mean=4.05, SD=1.193). While case records were kept up to date (mean=3.93, SD=1.175), unresolved cases were regularly followed up on (mean=3.89, SD=1.186). Overall, resolution efforts were consistent and effective (mean=3.94, SD=1.230), and conflict mediation was also effective (mean=3.89, SD=1.213). With a mean score of 3.94 (SD=1.114), the respondents evaluated the joint operations' incident resolution rate as high overall.

M. Summary of the Level of Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations in Addressing the Crime Incidents

The overall evaluation of police-barangay joint operations' responsiveness to crime incidents shows a consistently high level across all assessed factors. The high response time rating

Table 14

Relationship between the respondent's profile and the responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia

Respondent's Profile	Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations	R	p-value	Description
Age	Response time	-0.127	0.162	Not significant
	Resource allocation	-0.029	0.753	Not significant
	Communication efficiency	-0.039	0.672	Not significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	0.008	0.930	Not significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	-0.032	0.726	Not significant
	Incident resolution rate	-0.051	0.579	Not significant
Occupation	Response time	-.301***	<.001	Highly Significant
	Resource allocation	-.192*	0.034	Significant
	Communication efficiency	-.238**	0.008	Significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	-.283**	0.001	Significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	-.279**	0.002	Significant
	Incident resolution rate	-.242**	0.007	Significant
Educational attainment	Response time	0.173	0.056	Not significant
	Resource allocation	0.134	0.140	Not significant
	Communication efficiency	0.094	0.299	Not significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	0.083	0.360	Not significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	0.153	0.091	Not significant
	Incident resolution rate	0.123	0.177	Not significant
Length of assignment	Response time	.247**	0.006	Significant
	Resource allocation	0.141	0.120	Not significant
	Communication efficiency	0.171	0.058	Not significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	.232**	0.010	Significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	.240**	0.007	Significant
	Incident resolution rate	.237**	0.008	Significant
Involvement in crime prevention initiatives	Response time	-0.141	0.119	Not significant
	Resource allocation	-0.043	0.639	Not significant
	Communication efficiency	-0.108	0.236	Not significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	-0.15	0.098	Not significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	-0.124	0.173	Not significant
	Incident resolution rate	-0.094	0.302	Not significant

***. Correlation at 0.001(2-tailed)

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

(mean = 3.93) indicates that incidents were handled quickly. Additionally, resource allocation was rated highly (mean = 3.75), indicating adequate staff, equipment, and logistical support. Coordination during operations was made easier by the perceived effectiveness of police-barangay unit communication (mean = 3.92). The public's confidence in the cooperative efforts is demonstrated by the community's high perception of responsiveness (mean = 3.98). Joint patrols received the highest rating (mean=4.00) for effectiveness, demonstrating the importance of patrol operations in preserving safety. Similarly, the incident resolution rate was viewed favorably (mean=3.94), indicating that most cases are handled and closed. The grand mean of 3.92 confirms that the overall responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations is high, highlighting the effectiveness, efficiency, and community-oriented nature of these collaborative efforts.

N. Relationship between the Respondent's Profile and the Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations

The relationship between the respondents' profile and the responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations is significant and not significant. The age of the respondents is not significant in relation to the six indices of responsiveness, and all p-values are greater than 0.05, which means that older and younger people do not make a difference in their views of response time, allocation of resources, communication,

community perception, joint patrol, and resolution rate.

However, occupation had a significant negative correlation with all six dimensions. More precisely, response time (r=-0.301, p < 0.001), resource allocation (r=-0.192, p=0.034), communication efficiency (r=-0.238, p=0.008), community perception of responsiveness (r=-0.283, p=0.001), effectiveness of joint patrols (r=-0.279, p=0.002), and incident resolution rate (r=-0.242, p=0.007).

Educational attainment did not show significant correlations with any of the responsiveness factors, indicating that differences in education level among respondents did not relate to perceptions of police-barangay operations.

Length of assignment was positively and significantly correlated with perceived response time (r=0.247, p=0.006), community perception of responsiveness (r=0.232, p=0.010), effectiveness of joint patrols (r=0.240, p=0.007), and incident resolution rate (r=0.237, p=0.008). However, the relationship is low or weak. This implies that respondents with longer service in the area tend to perceive higher responsiveness of the joint operations. Resource allocation and communication efficiency were not significantly correlated with assignment length.

Lastly, involvement in crime prevention initiatives was found to have no significant relationship with response time (r = -0.141, p = 0.119) or resource allocation (r = -0.043, p = 0.639).

To sum it up, the most important profile characteristics that were significantly related to the perceived responsiveness of the

Table 15

Relationship between crime incidence and the responsiveness of police- barangay joint operations in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia

Respondent's Profile	Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations	R	p-value	Description
Types of crimes	Response time	.184*	0.041	Significant
	Resource allocation	.206*	0.022	Significant
	Communication efficiency	.207*	0.022	Significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	.208*	0.021	Significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	.285**	0.001	Significant
	Incident resolution rate	.260**	0.004	Significant
		0.176	0.052	Not significant
Crime hotspots	Response time			
	Resource allocation	0.166	0.066	Not significant
	Communication efficiency	0.172	0.058	Not significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	0.16	0.077	Not significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	.226*	0.012	Significant
	Incident resolution rate	.205*	0.023	Significant
		.340***	<0.001	Highly Significant
Reported crime rate	Response time			
	Resource allocation	.199*	0.027	Significant
	Communication efficiency	.294***	<0.001	Highly Significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	.301***	<0.001	Highly Significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	.298***	<0.001	Highly Significant
	Incident resolution rate	.318***	<0.001	Highly Significant
		.248**	0.006	Significant
Crime clearance rate	Response time			
	Resource allocation	.278**	0.002	Significant
	Communication efficiency	.307***	<0.001	Highly Significant
	Community perception of responsiveness	.343***	<0.001	Highly Significant
	Effectiveness of joint patrols	.317***	<0.001	Highly Significant
	Incident resolution rate	.323***	<0.001	Highly Significant
Overall		.307***	<0.001	Highly Significant

***. Correlation at 0.001(2-tailed)

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

p<0.01 highly significant, p<0.05 significant, p>0.05 not significant

Table 16

Difference in the level of responsiveness of police barangay joint operations when the respondents are grouped according to profile

Profile Variables	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	p-value	Interpretation
Age	15.939	5.313	5.803	<0.001	Highly significant
Occupation	12.731	3.183	3.348	0.012	Significant
Educational attainment	11.872	2.968	3.099	0.018	Significant
Length of assignment	11.250	2.250	2.316	0.048	Significant
Involvement in crime prevention initiatives	10.552	1.759	1.784	0.108	Not significant

p<0.01 highly significant, p<0.05 significant, p>0.05 not significant

police-barangay joint operations were occupation and length of assignment, while age, educational attainment level, and involvement in crime prevention initiatives were not significantly related.

O. Relationship between the Crime Incidence and the Responsiveness of Police-Barangay Joint Operations

Type of crimes had a significant positive relationship with all dimensions of responsiveness (Table 15), namely response time (r=0.184, p=0.041), resource allocation (r=0.206, p=0.022), communication efficiency (r=0.207, p=0.022), community perception of responsiveness (r=0.208, p=0.021), effectiveness of joint patrols (r=0.285, p=0.001), and incident resolution rate (r=0.260, p=0.004). However, the relationship is weak.

Crime hotspots showed only weak correlations with the effectiveness of joint patrols (r=0.226, p=0.012) and the incident resolution rate (r=0.205, p=0.023), whereas other dimensions of responsiveness were not significant. Reported crime rate had moderate positive correlations with all dimensions of responsiveness, especially response time (r=0.340, p < 0.001), communication efficiency (r=0.294, p < 0.001), community perception of responsiveness (r=0.301, p <

0.001), effectiveness of joint patrols (r=0.298, p < 0.001), and incident resolution rate (r=0.318, p < 0.001). Likewise, crime clearance rate was significantly associated with all aspects of responsiveness, with r-values ranging from r=0.248 (response time, p=0.006) to r=0.343 (community perception, p < 0.001).

Overall, the findings of all three studies point to a significant positive relationship between crime incidence and the responsiveness of police barangay joint operations (r = 0.307, p < 0.001), suggesting that high crime incidence is associated with more responsive police barangay joint operations.

P. Difference in the Level of Responsiveness of Police Barangay Joint Operations when the Respondents are Grouped According to Profile

In analyzing the level of responsiveness of police-barangay joint operations, significant differences emerged in respondents' responses across certain profile variables. Age, for instance, was found to have a significant effect on respondents' perceptions, as indicated by a sum of squares of 15.939, a mean square of 5.313, and an F-value of 5.803 (p < 0.001). Occupation, educational attainment, and length of assignment also showed significant differences, as seen from a sum of

squares of 12.731, a mean square of 3.183, and an F-value of 3.348 ($p=0.012$); a sum of squares of 11.872, a mean square of 2.968, and an F-value of 3.099 ($p=0.018$); and a sum of squares of 11.250, a mean square of 2.250, and an F-value of 2.316 ($p=0.048$), respectively. Involvement in crime prevention initiatives, however, did not show a significant

These findings indicate that demographic and professional characteristics, such as age, occupation, educational attainment, and length of assignment, influence perceptions of the responsiveness of joint operations, whereas direct involvement in crime prevention initiatives does not.

4. Discussion

The results obtained in this study identified several key areas in the responsiveness of the joint operations of the police and barangay, and their link with crime incidence in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia. The results showed that the majority of the respondents were in the prime working age and were mostly frontline personnel, including PNP officers and Barangay Tanods. This showed that safety and security operations in the community were dominated by individuals physically and functionally capable of performing crime-prevention activities. The dominance of these groups showed that responsiveness was grounded in actual field experience rather than office views. This supported the emphasis of Pola *et al.* (2025), which emphasized that community policing operations were largely dominated by active and functional personnel. It also supported the emphasis of Lacanilao and Carpio (2025), which highlighted the importance of Barangay Tanods in community safety and security operations.

Additionally, the study found that crime incidence in the chosen barangays was rated as moderate to high, particularly in terms of reported crime rates and clearance effectiveness. This meant that, even though crime was occurring, it was being monitored and addressed by law enforcement agencies. The presence of moderate crime rates in crime hotspots indicated a concentration of crime rather than a general, widespread occurrence. This was in line with Statista (2025) and Vicente *et al.* (2023), who found that there was a tendency for crimes to concentrate in hotspots characterized as high-risk zones that are influenced by socio-economic and environmental factors. However, the high crime incidence relative to crime reporting and clearance indicated an active law enforcement system, as reported by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (2024).

Moreover, the study showed that police-barangay joint operations demonstrated high responsiveness in response time, resource allocation, communication efficiency, community perception, the effectiveness of joint patrols, and incident resolution. This showed that police and barangay collaboration in maintaining peace and order in communities was effective. The results for communication and coordination showed that an established partnership between police and barangay forces had already been established, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency of police operations. This result was in consonance with previous studies conducted by Corpus and Gilaga (2025) and Vicente *et al.* (2023), which emphasized that coordination

and resource allocation were integral parts of effective community policing. Moreover, the result for the effectiveness of joint patrols showed that police patrols had a deterrent effect on lawless elements in society, as emphasized in previous studies conducted by Inquirer.net (2024).

Further, the analysis indicated that certain aspects had varying impacts on the relationship between respondents' profiles and perceptions of responsiveness. Specifically, age and educational attainment were not significant in shaping perceptions, whereas occupation and length of assignment were. This could be attributed to the fact that frontline responders were more likely to be more critical in assessing responsiveness. Conversely, respondents with more tenure were more likely to have more positive perceptions. This was in line with Vicente *et al.* (2023) and Cruz & Manalo (2023), who emphasized that role and experience were significant in respondents' perceptions of policing effectiveness. However, being part of crime prevention programs did not significantly shape perceptions, which could be attributed to the fact that participation in such programs did not necessarily make respondents more likely to be evaluative of operational performance, as also indicated by Ramos (2022).

Additionally, the study found a significant relationship between crime incidence and the responsiveness of police and barangay joint operations. The results showed a positive relationship between crime incidence and law enforcement units' responses. This was an adaptive mechanism, as the police and barangay units responded to the increase in crime. This result was in line with Garcia and Mendoza (2022) and Lee and Choi (2021), who found that certain crimes elicit a more responsive and immediate response from law enforcers. The significant relationship among crime reporting, clearance, and responsiveness also showed a reinforcing effect: a higher rate of crime reporting led to more responsive action by law enforcers, in turn leading to higher levels of trust from the general public.

However, this study had several limitations. First, it is based on self-reported data, which may have been biased or subjectively interpreted. Further, it is concentrated in only two barangays in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. This may have limited its generalization. Lastly, it is worth noting that other variables, such as socio-economic status, governance, and national policies, may have impacted crime rates and response. Future research may address these limitations by considering multiple research sites. Future research may also consider other methodologies, such as interviews, in order to address these limitations. Future research may also consider examining data over time.

This study's results had significant practical implications. Further enhancing police-barangay collaboration through additional training, improved communication networks, and resource augmentation would likely increase responsiveness. There was a need to empower the frontliners, as they were instrumental in the execution of joint police and barangay operations and had a better understanding of the challenges faced. In addition, there was a need to increase community participation, as this would likely result in a more holistic

approach to crime prevention. The study could be taken a step further by examining how community-based approaches could be incorporated into the existing policing system to increase the effectiveness of crime prevention.

5. Conclusions

The primary aim of this research was to investigate how police and barangay joint operations affected crime rates in Barangay Buenavista and Barangay Sta. Lucia. The research showed that most respondents, who were PNP personnel and barangay tanods, assessed crime rates as moderate, yet they observed significant occurrences of illegal gambling and traffic violations and minor offences. The two crime rates, together with the clearance percentages, remained high, indicating that people reported crimes and that police solved cases effectively. The police and barangay joint operations received high marks for their ability to protect people through patrol operations, which included response time, communication methods, and community trust-building activities. The two factors that affected responsiveness were occupation and assignment length, whereas age, education, and program involvement did not. The research showed that higher crime rates led police units to respond more frequently and perform their duties more effectively. The research shows that joint operations succeed in building community trust and delivering quick responses, yet criminal activity requires authorities to establish better preventive strategies, including data on citizen demographics and professional backgrounds that affect response times.

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